

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 11-24, 27, 31, 35, 46-59, 64, 65, 70, and 72 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 25, 29, 33, 36, 60, 61, and 68 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-10, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 38-45, 60, 61, 66-68, 71, and 73-75 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 27, 31, 35, 42, 43, 46, 64, 65, and 70

In item 8, the Office Action objects to claims 7, 8, 11, 27, 31, 35, 42, 43, 46, 64, 65, and 70 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, item 8 indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 11. Claim 25 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 27. Claim 29 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 31. Claim 33 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 35. Claim 36 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 46. Claim 60 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 64. Claim 61 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 65. Claim 68 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 70. In addition, claims 11, 27, 31, 35, 46, 64, 65, and 70 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 8, 42, and 43 no longer depend from a rejected base claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 25, 29, 36, 38-41, 60-61, 71, and 73-74 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 25, 29, 36, 38-41, 60-61, 71, and 73-74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,019,903 issued to Dougall in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,464 issued to Greggain and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,894,329 issued to Bretl. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, item 8 of the Office Action objects to claims 11, 27, 31, 46, 64, and 65 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, item 8 indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 11. Independent claim 25 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 27. Independent claim 29 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 31. Independent claim 36 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 46. Independent claim 60 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 64. Independent claim 61 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 65. Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 25, 29, 36, 60, and 61 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3-6 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 38-41 and 71 depend from claim 36 and include all of the features of claim 36. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 38-41 and 71 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 73 depends from claim 60 and includes all of the features of claim 60. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 73 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 74 depends from claim 61 and includes all of the features of claim 61. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 74 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

Rejection of Claims 10, 33, 45, 68, and 75 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 33, 45, 68, and 75 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,019,903 issued to Dougall and U.S. Patent No. 6,219,464 issued to Greggain as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,773 issued to Westerman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, item 8 of the Office Action objects to claims 1, 33, 36, and 68 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, item 8 indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 11. Independent claim 33 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 35. Independent claim 36 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 46. Independent claim 68 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 70. Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 33, 36, and 68 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 10 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 45 depends from claim 36 and includes all of the subject matter of claim 36. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 45 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 75 depends from claim 68 and includes all of the features of claim 68. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 75 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

Rejection of Claims 9, 28, 32, 44, 66, and 67 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 28, 32, 44, 66, and 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,019,903 issued to Dougall and U.S. Patent No. 6,219,464 issued to Greggain as applied to claims 1 and 3-4 above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0112369 to Yoo. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, item 8 of the Office Action objects to claims 11, 27, 31, 46, 64, and 65 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, item 8 indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 11. Independent claim 25 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 27. Independent claim 29 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 31. Independent claim 36 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 46. Independent claim 60 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 64. Independent claim 61 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 65. Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 25, 29, 36, 60, and 61 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 9 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 28 depends from claim 25 and includes all of the features of claim 25. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 28 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 32 depends from claim 29 and includes all of the features of claim 29. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 32 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 44 depends from claim 36 and includes all of the features of claim 36. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 44 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 66 depends from claim 60 and includes all of the features of claim 60. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 66 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 67 depends from claim 61 and includes all of the features of claim 61. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 67 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

Summary

Claims 1, 3-10, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 38-45, 60, 61, 66-68, 71, and 73-75 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully requested that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

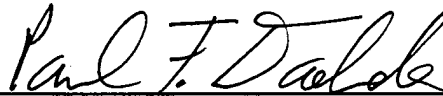
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 16, 2009

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